



# SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

AUGUST 2013 EDITION Visit us on the web at: [www.seatpleasantmd.gov](http://www.seatpleasantmd.gov)

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## City of Seat Pleasant

### Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

### Council President

Kelly Porter

(At-Large Councilmember)

### Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

### Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

### Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

### Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

### Ward V Councilmember

Eugene F. Kennedy

### At-Large Council member

Johnie L. Higgs, Sr.

### Interim City Administrator

Latasha Gatling

### Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

### Chief of Police

Chris Cotillio

### Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

### City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

On Saturday, July 6, 2013, we paid our final respect and laid to rest the honorable **Frank J. Blackwell**, former mayor of Seat Pleasant: A City of Excellence and a resident of Ward IV. He was a gentle, humble and dedicated public servant to the residents and citizens of A City of Excellence.

Mr. Blackwell had a strong inner drive and desire to use his talents to uplift his community. After retirement with the Federal government he decided to serve his community by running for and subsequently winning the Ward IV Council seat. He later became President of the City Council. Urged by his neighbors, Mr. Blackwell decided to run for mayor and won three consecutive terms for a total of 12 years. Life for Mr. Blackwell was not easy and he faced many obstacles along his journey. Working as a messenger for the Department of Defense Mr. Blackwell worked his way up the ladder in spite of all the odds faced by African-American at the time. Even though he rose to a GS-9 position he realized that he would not be able to go any further without a college degree. Mr. Blackwell was determined to not let any obstacles get in his way. Thus, he returned to school and obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration & Economics. When Mr. Blackwell retired in 1982 he had reached the level of a GS-14 position.

However, his trials and tribulations did not end there. Serving this city was not easy. Often he was faced with the difficult task of moving the city forward because of the narrow minds of the legislative branch of government. Nevertheless, he persevered until the end of his term. Prior to his retirement from public office, Mr. Blackwell put this city on a solid financial foundation. He built the reserves to almost US\$2 million which was significant for a city of this size during that time. He acquired land, finished the building of a shopping center, established an emergency food bank, obtained housing rehabilitation funds for low and moderate income families and made provision for transporting senior citizens and those with disabilities.

His enduring spirit serves as an inspiration to me. Whenever, I called upon him for advice, to discuss an idea and share a light moment he NEVER refused. Even if he didn't see something the way I did he always would share his thoughts. He reached back to help a young man like me. Mr. Blackwell never spoke a harsh word to me. He never engaged in gossip, slander nor tried to hurt someone. Yes, many times people did these things to him but he always took the moral high ground.

Being a leader is lonely at times. Often God gives the leader the vision that others comprehend not. It's like a bird confined to a cage. Often I reflect on Mr. Blackwell's tenure and think about how he would be put into the proverbial cage. As I reflect on his trials and tribulations and experience my own, I think about the

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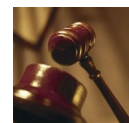
(MAYOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED)

great American Poet, **Paul Laurence Dunbar** and his poem entitled **Sympathy**. The ending of the poem reads, *"I know why the caged bird sings, ah me, When his wing is bruised and his bosom sore,— When he beats his bars and he would be free; It is not a carol of joy or glee, But a prayer that he sends from his heart's deep core, But a plea, that upward to Heaven he flings— I know why the caged bird sings!"*

So, I too sing. I sing a song of joy even while I'm in my own cage. Sing the song of thankfulness, joy and peace for my beloved Seat Pleasant. I sing about the gratefulness I have after meeting this wonderful human being Frank J. Blackwell. Well done Mr. Blackwell, well done! God is good and his mercy endures forever! Because of the contributions of the honorable Mayor **Frank J. Blackwell** I am confident that we are on our way to become A City of Excellence.

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## OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK



Office of City Clerk

The City Council has introduced the following legislations in the month of July.

### Ordinance O-13-11

Resolution R-14-01 A Resolution concerning the MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION AND PARK AND RECREATION COUNCIL RELATIONSHIPS.

### Resolution R-14-02

A Resolution concerning DECLARATION AND CONSENT TO A RECESS OF THE SEAT PLEASANT CITY COUNCIL  
Resolution R-14-03 A Resolution to APPROVE THE CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT, RECEIPT OF FINANCING FOR A (ENERGY CONSUMPTION PROJECT) MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION PROJECT (S) FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ENERGY APPLICATION ("THE APPLICATION"), TO BE FINANCED EITHER DIRECTLY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (THE "DEPARTMENT") OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND OR THROUGH OTHER DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

Copies of legislation are available from the Office of the City Clerk at: City Hall 6301 Addison Road Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743-2125

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Mayor and City Council will meet on the following days in the month of September:

Tuesday, September 3, 2013  
Regular Work Session  
Time: 6:00p.m.

Monday, September 9, 2013  
Public Session  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

The meetings will be held at:

Seat Pleasant City Hall Council Chambers 6301 Addison Road Seat Pleasant, MD 20743-2125

If you desire to speak before the Council at the Public Session, please contact the City Clerk to register your concerns before the meeting.

## SEAT PLEASANT VOTER REGISTRATION UPDATE

The Board of Supervisors of Election would like to update the Voter Registration List for the City of Seat Pleasant. The Board is requesting that ALL residents of the City assist them in this process by taking the following steps:

1) If you have a family member that is DECEASED, please send a letter to the Board of Election informing them of this information. You will need to identify yourself in the letter. The letter should state the name of the person that is deceased and still listed as an active voter. Please mail your letter to:

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(OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK CONTINUED)

Prince George's County Board of Elections  
 16201 Trade Zone Avenue Suite 108  
 Upper Marlboro, MD 20774-8758

2) If you reside in a property and you continue to receive mail for the previous resident, please return the mail to the post office. Addressed as the "WRONG ADDRESS"

3) If a person has relocated permanently, please encourage them to update their Voter Registration.

4) If you noticed NEW residents, please send them to City Hall to complete a Voter Registration Card to change their Voter information.

If you would like to verify if the family member is still listed on the City's Voter Registration list, please feel free to contact the City Clerk for verification purposes.

**Publication Mailing:** The Gazette Newspaper has discontinued the FREE home delivery of the paper to each resident in the City of Seat Pleasant. However, they have expanded the bulk delivery services to the following locations:

Seat Pleasant City Hall 6301 Addison Road Seat Pleasant, MD 20743  
 Seat Pleasant Activity Center 5720 Addison Road Seat Pleasant, MD 20743  
 Safeway Stores, Inc. 6300 Central Avenue Seat Pleasant, MD 20743  
 Fairmount Heights Public Library 5904 Kolb St. Fairmount Heights, MD 20743

## A WORD FROM COUNCILWOMAN SIMMS NEW IN TOWN?

If you or someone you know has recently moved to Seat Pleasant and want information about the City, a welcome booklet is available free of charge. You can request a copy for pick up from City Hall at 301-336-2600. You can also contact your Ward Representative (Councilmember ) or download a copy online at the City's website: [www.seatpleasantmd.gov](http://www.seatpleasantmd.gov).



## FROM THE DESK OF COUNCILWOMAN STEPHENSON



### UPCOMING COMMUNITY YARD SALE!!

Please contact me for additional information and details directly on 240-601-1037.



## FIREARMS AND FIREWORKS

The 4th of July is over but citizens should be aware of regulations governing firearms and fireworks. Below is the section of the City's code pertaining to them:

### FIREARMS AND FIREWORKS Chapter 84

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Town (now City) of Seat Pleasant 12-16-1968 as § 25-12 of Ch. 25 of the 1968 Code. Amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES Fire prevention — See Ch. 88. Noise — See Ch. 112.

§ 84-1. Permission required. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any cannon, gun, pistol or other  
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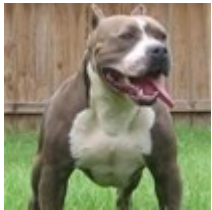
**(FIREARMS AND FIREWORKS CONTINUED)**

firearm, rocket, firecracker, fireworks or air rifle within the limits of the City of Seat Pleasant without first having obtained, in writing, the permission of the Mayor and Council.

§ 84-2. Violations and penalties. 1 Any person violating the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a maximum fine of \$1,000 and/or a maximum term of six months imprisonment.

1. Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code; see Chapter 1, General Provisions, Art. I.

## **PIT BULLS ILLEGAL IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MARYLAND**



Please be aware that it is illegal to own pit bulls in Prince George's County, Maryland. In accordance with Prince George's County Code, Section 3-185.01, no person shall own, keep, or harbor a Pit Bull Terrier within the County. Pit Bull Terriers are defined as:

- ◆ Staffordshire Bull Terrier Breed
- ◆ American Staffordshire Terrier Breed
- ◆ American Pit Bull Terrier Breed

Exceptions are allowed for any person owning a Pit Bull Terrier prior to November 1, 1996, whose dog has been continuously registered by the Administrator of Animal Control since November 1, 1996 and continuously displays a tag provided by the Administrator which readily identifies the dog as a registered Pit Bull Terrier. The dog shall be maintained within a building or secure kennel at all times. Whenever the dog is removed from the building or kennel, he shall be secured by an unbreakable or unseverable leash and maintained under the control of an adult.

*Violations of Section 3-185.01 will result in the illegal Pit Bull Terrier being impounded, and fines up to \$1,000 or a sentence of not more than six months of imprisonment against the owner.*

## **AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM ROBERT L. ASHTON, ACTING CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

Rider Survey

Routes A11 and A12, the Metrobus

Metro, the Maryland Department of Transportation, and Prince George's County are evaluating ways to improve service on the Metrobus Martin Luther King Jr. Highway line (routes A11-A12). Your input is important in this evaluation process! Please go on-line and take a short rider survey: <http://tinyurl.com/metroA11-A12>. For more information about this or other Metrobus evaluations, please visit the project website [www.metrobus-studies.com](http://www.metrobus-studies.com)



Encuesta de pasajeros

Rutas A11 Y A12 de Metrobus

Metro, el Departamento de Transporte de Maryland, y el Condado de Prince George's evalúan maneras de mejorar el servicio en la línea Martin Luther King Jr. Highway (las rutas A11-A12). Sus comentarios son muy importantes en el proceso de este proyecto! Para completar esta encuesta por el internet, visite: <http://tinyurl.com/A11-A12> Para más información sobre la evaluación, por favor visite [www.metrobus-studies.com](http://www.metrobus-studies.com)

## **HOME SAFETY TIPS FROM THE SEAT PLEASANT POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Safety experts agree that the best way to deal with crime in the home is to take every step possible to prevent

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**(HOME SAFETY TIPS CONTINUED)**

it from happening to you. Every person should know – at the very least – basic yet important crime prevention tips that will keep you and your family more safe and secure. By doing a few simple things such as keeping exterior lights on at night, making sure there aren't tall bushes that someone can hide behind, keeping all of your doors locked and installing safety windows, you can turn your house from a target into something a predator will not want to even attempt breaking into. You can also work with your neighbors to keep each other safe. For instance, a neighborhood watch group is a great way to show everyone that they are being watched and will not have an easy time on your block. You can put up signs that indicate you have people watching for suspicious behavior. One of the most important things to remember about criminals is that they never want to be seen by anyone, because if they are ever caught by the police they won't want someone to be able to identify them. When a criminal knows there is a good chance they are being watched, they will be far more likely to move on and look for an easier target.

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**“LET’S TALK TRASH”****A WORD FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Here is information regarding trash collection in the City:

**§ 129-12. RESIDENTIAL COLLECTIONS** [Added 4-14-1969 by Ord. No. 69-02]

- A. All refuse; trash and garbage shall be placed in containers of not less than 10 or more than 20 gallon capacity. Refuse containers shall be provided by the owner or tenant and maintained in a leak proof and sanitary condition. No trash or garbage shall be placed in paper or cardboard containers. Containers shall be made of metal or of a type approved by The Mayor and Council and shall have tight-fitting lids. No container shall be too heavy to be manageable by one person.
- B. Trash and garbage containers shall be placed at the curb for collection no earlier than darkness of the day before collection and must be removed to the rear of properties and out of public view by darkness on the day of collection.
- C. Commercial establishments and multifamily residences of more than three units shall be exempt from Subsections A and B.1
- D. Public trash receptacles shall be used exclusively for street litter.

**BULKY TRASH COLLECTION**

All bulk trash is collected on Wednesday by appointment only. You must call Bates Trucking by 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday to be placed on the list. (Call 301-773-2069) You are only allowed three (3) large items. Residents please note if you don't call on Tuesday then you should not put any items out. If items are placed out and you're not on the pickup list you will be fined. All items for pickup should be put out the night before. Any items that are placed out before dark the night before will receive a notice and can be fined.


**RECYCLING**

Recycling is collected every Thursday along with the regular trash. Single stream recycling makes the goal of diverting waste from the landfill easy by allowing one large bin to accommodate all of your paper, cardboard, plastic and aluminum. Make sure your container is large enough to accommodate all single stream recyclables (paper, cardboard, soda cans, plastic bottles, plastic jugs, yogurt cups, cereal boxes, clean aluminum foil and pie plates, paper milk and juice cartons, mail, greeting cards, empty aerosol cans, plastic toys and plastic buckets. Using one collection bin for all your recyclable items increases the ease and convenience of recycling so that more people participate and more resources are saved.

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(RECYCLING CONTINUED)

DO RECYCLE			DON'T RECYCLE
Paper	Envelopes		Light bulbs
Magazines/Catalogs	Paper milk/juice cartons		Styrofoam
Newspapers	Mail & Junk Mail		Mirrors
Soda Cans	Greeting cards		Ceramics
Plastic bottle and jugs	Plastic buckets		Pyrex
Plastic lawn chairs	Empty aerosol cans		Wax Paper
Cardboard/Paper	Shredded paper		Padded/Plastic Envelopes
Cereal boxes	Glass bottles		Painted/Treated wood
Clean, balled aluminum	Glass jars		Batteries
foil & pie pans	Hardback books		Paper Towels

### COFFEE CIRCLE A WORD FROM CPAC

I'm a firm believer that knowledge is power. The more you know, the more you become an active participant in what happens around you. Prince George's County is constantly hosting information sessions so that we are informed and aware of the different things happening right here where we live. With that in mind, I'd like to tell you about the Coffee Circle, an event that you should definitely add to your calendar.

You're probably wondering – what is a Coffee Circle? This is a fabulous meeting hosted by District III of the PG County Police Department. It is a public forum for ALL citizens, business owners, organizations, and public officials who share our goal which is to improve our quality of life. The meetings focus on common concerns expressed by residents in our county. The Coffee Circle's agenda includes police updates and statistics from Major Nader, along with information from the Fire Department, Sheriff's Department, District III Police and Transit Police Departments, and greetings from various appointed officials. Guest speakers from different companies and agencies are often invited so they can share information, too. This forum covers a variety of topics that help us and provides for casual interaction between the community and our police officers. In Seat Pleasant, we are extremely fortunate to have our own police department and the Coffee Circle is a wonderful opportunity to meet the county's officers and leaders – please come out and be a part of this great experience.

The Coffee Circle is held from 9 – 11 a.m. at Wegman's of Woodmore on the first Wednesday of each month; it is free and open to the public.

If you need any information or want us to discuss anything with the Seat Pleasant Police Department or Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, please email us at [cpac.seatpleasant@live.com](mailto:cpac.seatpleasant@live.com). Remember, knowledge is power. Let's keep Seat Pleasant safe!

### A WORD FROM PUBLIC WORKS PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL

The Public Works Department does not handle any situations with animals. Should you need assistance with groundhogs, cats, dogs, beavers, etc. please call the Prince George's County Animal Control at 301-780-7200. The Animal Management Division (AMD) responds to calls from citizens and residents regarding the following concerns:

- Injured animals

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**(ANIMAL CONTROL CONTINUED)**

- Sick animals
- Vicious animals
- Cruelty complaints
- Dead animals
- Nuisance animals or animals running at large

NOTE: Permission to trap wild animals must be obtained first from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources at 1-877-463-6497.

When you call with a concern please have the following information ready:

Name, address, phone number (this information will be kept confidential), type of animal, color of animal, address where last seen and animal's physical condition

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## **AUGUST IS NATIONAL MINORITY DONOR AWARENESS MONTH**

Today in America, nearly 115,000 people are on the national waiting list for a life-saving organ transplant. More than half of them are minorities. Originally established as National Minority Donor Awareness Day on August 1, 1996, National Minority Donor Awareness Week calls attention to the urgent need for registered organ, eye, and tissue donors from minority populations. Observed during the first week of August, National Minority Donor Awareness Week is a special time dedicated to coordinating minority-focused outreach activities, bringing donation messages to minority communities, honoring donors, encouraging donor registration, and promoting healthful living and disease prevention to decrease the need for transplantation.

Increasing the number of registered donors is especially critical for minorities, who make up more than 50 percent of all those on the national transplant waiting list. Donor organs are matched for transplant according to several factors, including blood and tissue type, which can vary by ethnicity. And while people of every race frequently match each other, those on the waiting list are more likely to receive transplants if more people from all backgrounds donate. Some of the facts people need to know about organ, eye, and tissue donation include:

- Most major religions in the U.S. support organ donation and view it as an act of kindness.
- Doctors will do everything they can to save a person's life and the transplant team will be involved only when all efforts to save the individual's life are exhausted.
- Factors such as blood and tissue type, severity of illness, time on waiting list, distance from donor, and body size are considered when matching donor organs to recipients.
- Ethnicity, wealth, and fame are never part of the matching process.
- As of May 2012, there were more than 33,500 African Americans, more than 20,000 Hispanic Americans, and more than 7,900 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders on the national waiting list for organs in the United States. In 2011, 4,308 individuals from these ethnic communities donated their organs. However, many more donors from all backgrounds are critically needed.

To learn more about organ donation and to register to become an organ, eye, and tissue donor, visit [www.organdonor.gov](http://www.organdonor.gov).

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## **COME LEARN HOW YOU CAN RECEIVE A FREE ENERGY AUDIT FOR YOUR HOME**

On August 21, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, Shepherd Energy will be conducting an information session on how you can get a free energy audit for your home. Energy audits are the first step in saving you money on your monthly utility bill. During an energy audit, our trained and certified Energy Auditors use a variety of diagnostic tools to determine where hot and cool air escapes from your home and identify which appliances are costing you too much money to operate. Shepherd Energy is an approved contractor with Pepco and BGE. For information or to R.S.V.P., please call 301-336-2600.



City of Seat Pleasant

*"A City of Excellence"*

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SOUTHERN MARYLAND  
PERMIT #235

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT  
August 6, 2013**



**6 pm-8pm**

**SEAT PLEASANT ACTIVITY CENTER  
(REAR)**

**5720 Addison Road  
Seat Pleasant, MD 20743**

**(Behind Seat Pleasant Elementary School on the corner  
of Addison Road and Martin Luther King Jr.  
Highway)**

**For more information call 301-499-8700.**

**City of Seat Pleasant  
FREE MOVIE NIGHT  
August 23, 2013**



**MADAGASCAR 3**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Goodwin Park**

**311 68th Place**

**Seat Pleasant, Maryland**

**For more information call 301-336-2600.**

**REMINDER:** The Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company Inc. will be holding the 3rd Annual Crab Feast on Saturday September, 14 2013 from 2pm until 5pm at 6305 Addison Rd in Seat Pleasant MD. The cost IS \$40.00 for adults and \$20.00 for children. Attendees will be served all you can eat crabs along with other "cook-out" style foods (hamburger/hotdogs, etc). For more information and to purchase tickets visit [spvfccrabs.eventbrite.com](http://spvfccrabs.eventbrite.com) or call 301-836-1957.